Note: The Waste Management Team handles waste and recycling for both the GRC in Cleveland and Plum Brook facilities in Sandusky, Ohio. To recycle the following items, please complete a Waste Disposal Request (NASA C260a). If you have any questions, please call 3-2124.

Hazardous and Nonhazardous Chemical Recycling

Unwanted excess hazardous (and nonhazardous) chemicals are handled in several ways, with the final choice being disposal according to environmental regulations.

If the chemicals are not expired, not out of date, and not contaminated, they are offered to Chemical Management for their Chemical Exchange program (Click here for the Chemical Inventory and Exchange web page – not available yet).

If the chemicals are not eligible for the Chemical Exchange, they are sent for reuse as fuel to make bricks and cement. 90% of the chemicals slated for disposal are saved for better use in this manner.

Solvents are sent in bulk to a facility that has a blending program like the one mentioned above for used oils. If the solvents have a good BTU value, they are sent to cement kiln furnaces as feedstock to keep them going. And the cement kilns make bricks and cement. Chemicals and metals will burn at specific temperatures, and a high temperature is needed, such as 300°F for oil and 100°F for some solvents. Also, regulatory requirements are stringent at these furnaces, since cement kiln dust can contain heavy metals. So, GRC ships to a TSDF that has a permit to mix chemicals and to ship to a facility to make fuel oil. The TSDF also may have its own incinerator to burn other chemicals, mainly powdered chemicals and corrosives.

Input by Mike Bajorek 11-14-03